

1 ~~File~~ THE RIGHTEOUS DEMON

Robb, Alberta

Scenery..table,one chair and bench to be arranged as desired. The prince of Demons; dressed in a long black cloak and a black skull cap,out of which grows a pair of six-inch golden horns, is seated in the chair. He Has a tiny moustache and smokes a cigarette in a long holder. As he smokes furiously, he scans a newspaper. Suddenly he throws the paper on the floor and picking up a handbell from the table he rings it furiously. Immediately an official demon appears. He is similarly garbed,except that his horns are silver and three inches only.

prince ... Official Demon, have you seen the paper?

Off..... No, your majesty.

prince ... (picking up paper and thrusting at him furiously) Read it!
Read it!

Off..... (Reads aloud slowly, pausing frequently) "His Majesty, the King of Earth, on this day and henceforth, due to various causes, bars the prince of Demons and his followers from this land. Any person or persons having horns is to be immediately ejected from this land. (he stops and looks mournfully at his chief.) I won't be able to get anymore ice cream....couldn't we make some down below?

prince..... You fool! It's too hot down there! (bangs his fist on the table)I..I didn't call you to talk about ice cream. Do you realize that I, the prince of Demons,have been insulted? .. and anyway I had a lot of work to do here!

Off..... (Who has been backing away nervously)....yes, sir.

prince..... (brooding) We must have revenge! No King has dared to do this before.

Off..... (brooding also) yes! We must have revenge! This has never been done before----and by a king that brings his daughter up in the modern manner.

prince....(interested) The modern manner? Tell me more about this modern manner!

Off..... The child, is never spanked...

prince... And the result?

Off..... She does as she pleases.

prince.. Excellent! ..Now tell me.. does the king have any fondness for this daughter?

Off....(Gravely) Sir! He allows her to do anything!

prince....Better and better!

Off.... (Continues) He even takes her on his hunting trips.

prince... He must love her indeed! Here is my plan. Suppose the princess could be lured down here and kept. ??

off..... (excitedly) We could hold her for ransome.. a thousand barrels of ice cream!!

prince(screaming) Ice Cream! (He snatches a whip out of his cloak and slowly stalks toward the unfortunate official, who backs slowly out of the door, followed by the demon prince). As they exit, through the opposite door, comes Alfred, the Righteous Demon. At the moment of entrance he is engrossed, with the air of a mirror, in studying the hair above his forehead. His hand falls down and he sighs as he drops into the chair.)

Alfred....Not a sign of one. Not a sign of one. Why was I ever born? (drops mirror into his lap) At this point the prince returns to the room, flushed and in a bad temper. On his entrance Alfred jumps up and the mirror crashes to the floor.)

Alfred....Oh dear! Seven years bad luck! Oh Dear!

prince....(with clenched teeth) Seven years of peeling onions, you mean!

That will teach you to break mirrors in my presence! ! !

Alfred... Oh dear! I've just finished a year of shelling peas! Oh dear! prince.....(irritably) pick up that glass! (drops into chair, stares morosely at the ground. Alfred carefully begins to pick up glass, bit by bit. The prince stares at him a moment then demands) What were you doing with that mirror?

Alfred....Sir, I was looking to see if my horns were beginning to sprout;

prince.....(sitting up straight) Horns??? Have you no horns??

Alfred...(sadly) No sir. Not even a bump,sir.

prince...(excitedly).. Not even a bump!!.. excellent. Go and get the official devil!!..... Wait - what is your name?

Alfred...(sadly).. yes,sir! Alfred,sir. (He goes out... The prince paces up and down quickly) No horns! Good!..Good!! No one will suspect him of being a demon! (The noise of hurrying feet is heard and the official Demon peers cautiously around the door) you want me,sir?

Prince (impatiently) yes.. Come in.. Come in!

(Official advances cautiously) ... I have found the demon who is to lure away the princess.

Off...(sadly) ...I remembered, sir, after I..ah..left, that such a plan is impossible for no Demon may remain on earth.

prince.. That's where you are wrong! A Demon without horns might remain here safely. Who would know he was not a human being?

Off....(more sadly) There is no Demon without horns.

prince.. Wrong again,Official! I have found one. His name is Alfred. Give me your book of statistics-on-certified-devils(Official produces a book from inside cloak and prince scans it)..Ah..h.. Here we are...Alfred... entered three years ago for excellence in..hnnnnm not quite clear.. I wonder why he wasn't granted horns?

Official.....Bad work,very likely.. Bad work.

4

prince.. Well, it's lucky for us. Call him in.

Off..(goes to door)..Alfred!-----Alfred! Come here! (pauses then calls again) Alfred! (Alfred appears wiping large tears from his eyes. He looks nervously at the prince) sir?

prince....Don't cry, Demon.. I won't hurt you.

Alfred.. yessir.. but those onions make me cry,sir.

prince..Oh.! Well..that need happen no longer.. I am about to give you a chance to redeem yourself...if you succeed, you need no longer peel onions) Alfred... What do I have to do, your Majesty?

Prince..It concerns a princess.. As you may have heard, we are banished from the earthly kingdom. Now if we were to lure the princess away and hold her for ransom, the King of Earth, might be forced in the ransom terms, to reinstate us....at any rate we could make him suffer.

Alfred... Yes,sir....What do I have to do,sir?

prince.. You must lure the princess away,of course.

Alfred...But girls scare me!

prince...Scare you..??? Girls??(stamps up and down furiously, stops to peer at Alfred ferociously) If you don't have that girl here by this evening, I'll have you peeling onions for the next century!! Now go!!

Alfred(sadly) yessir.(walks out)

prince...Now,since we have horns, we'd better go below..(both exit)

Music ...

The Toymakers Dream....

Same Scenery.

Enter Alfred hastily,followed by the princess.

princess...Wait a minute,boy!

Alfred(stopping nervously) Ma m..please don't follow me.

princess...Don't be silly. You asked me to go for a walk then you ran away. What's the idea?

Alfred..I..I

5 5.

princess.. you're shy, that's what!...I understand!...Well, come on, sit down and talk to me.

Alfred(giggling shyly)..yes Ma m.

princess..I'm not ma m. I'm a miss... I'd like to get married and be a mam though.. That's my idea of a real career for a girl! (turns to face Alfred) ..Don't you?

Alfred - f(interested). Yes Ma'm. - Miss. Why don't you get married?

princess - Why don't you ask me?

Alfred - It Oh, dear, no. (giggles shyly)

princess - (edges closer) I'm a princess, Alfred and I have lots of money. You wouldn't have to work. -(Alfred starts to speak as he edges away..princess interrupts) Of course we'd have to break it gently to father. He says married people have a devil's life especially the man.

Alfred(excitedly) A devil's life! (thoughtfully as he turns to look at her) Does your father always tell the truth?

princess (sitting up straight and looking at him in surprise) Of course!

Alfred..A Devil's life! (with growing excitement) If I led a devil's life then I'd grow horns.. and I'd be respected down below and-

princess..(Interrupting excitedly-she grasps his hand and looks into his face) Horns? Down below? Are you a demon? Are you?

Alfred (surprised) Why, of course, ma'm.

princess."Miss", not "ma,m", and I don't believe it - you have no horns.

Alfred-I wasn't a good enough demon to grow horns. Oh dear! (sighs)

princess ..Then you are a demon?...How lovely! I've always wanted to meet a demon. Father was so tiresome. He always kept me away from them. Tell me, do you shovel brimstone into the furnaces or Burn people or what - ?

Alfred (sadly) I peeled onions and before that I shelled peas for a year and before that I dusted. You have no idea how much dust the furnaces made. - you started at 7.30 and

6 16

princess (disappointed) - Well, never mind! you must have done something wicked to get there - - didn't you, now?

Alfred (giggling shyly and turning his head away) I don't like to talk about it - but if I'm going to marry you, you should know.

princess - Yes?

Alfred - she was only a young girl and it was a dark night and she kept hugging up to me and....and...

princess Yes?

Alfred... And she whispered, "Kiss me, Alfred," and -

princess (interrupting) you needn't keep on. I'm no child. I know what happened. What you need is a good woman's influence.

Alfred.. (plaintively) -but I haven't finished telling you what happened!

princess.. Never mind, dear. I understand. We won't discuss it further.

Alfred. she kissed me and I pushed her-

princess (hastily) Now- now. I think I'd better call Father and tell him that we're going to be married! (runs to door and goes out)

Alfred (speaking determinedly as ^{he goes} ~~she goes~~, his back half to her) I pushed her away and ran away and I fell down a bank and when I woke I was down there - and the official said they got me. because I wouldn't appreciate Heaven and - (turns around) - Oh she's gone! (sadly) No one ever listens to me!

princess (re-enters with King.) Father was just coming to look for me,

Alfred. - Father! (turns to King) We're going to be married! Alfred is a demon but he truly loves me and he's going to change.

King A demon! Marry a demon! Indeed you won't! No daughter of mine will marry a demon.

princess.. But, father, he can't be a very bad demon. He has no horns! !

King.. No horns!

Alfred (sadly) No horns! I've tried everything but they won't grow.

King (

King(reflectively) Hm! That changes matters---- What were you sent down there for, young man?

Alfred...she was a young girl and it was a dark night and-----

princess (tossing her head) Oh; Alfred, don't be tiresome!

King(hastily) Hm! Well, well, that will do; you-ah- are sure you'll reform?

princess (quickly) Of, course he will, Father.

8
Alfred...(sadly)...No horns'

King...I...ah...can see no further objections to this marriage..

Princess (throwing her arms around the King's neck)...Father, you're angel'

Alfred...(starting nervously) Angel'He's not an angel, is he? We're not supposed to have anything to do with them'

Princess...Don't be silly, pet. That's only a figure of speech--- now I have to run and get things ready. We'll get married right away (starts to leave)

Alfred...Oh dear' Please come with me now'

Princess...(severely) Indeed I won't' I'm going to be married first (She runs out quickly.)

Alfred.....(sighs) Oh dear.

King.....(in a confidential tone) I say, old man, what did you do?

..H'mn..h'mn...(clears throat and laughs jocularly)..I'm as broad-minded as the next one, you know. After all, a man's a man. (laughs heartily again) You can tell me.

Alfred.....I can't tell you now. I have to leave right away. His Majesty,

The Prince of Demons, told me to have the Princess down below by evening. I'll have to explain that she wouldn't wait and

that we're going to be ~~married~~ ---

King.....(interrupting) The Prince did'..Why?..

Alfred.....He's very angry because you banished him from the earth and he wants to get even...he says you're a silly old fool but Cleopatra says it's probably because you don't understand the Prince.

King....(thoughtfully) ..I really have nothing against the fellow --but some of my people object to him..(suddenly turning to face Alfred)..Did you say Cleopatra?..Is she down there??

Alfred.....Yessir

King...(eagerly)...I say, what is she like? 9

Alfred....Very nice but not as pretty as Helen of Troy.

King.....Really'...(stops, twirls his moustache, looks at Alfred reflectively then says slowly)..You know, old fellow, I don't want to see you get into trouble over this. I think I, ll go down and visit the Prince. If I have a little talk with him, we may be able to iron matters out.

Alfred...Yessir---we'd better hurry, sir'

Both exit.

Music Bridge

.....

The Princess comes in, looks all around, calls.....

Alfred' Alfred'...Father' Father'...(she stands, arms akimbo)...Well for heaven's sakes'...They're both gone'

(Alfred reappears on opposite stage to Princess. He is wearing the King's crown, a very ornate affair) The Princess sees him, gives a cry and runs to him).....Oh Alfred'..I looked all over'..I was afraid you had gone back down.

Alfred.....I did.

Princess...^(grasps his hand)You did'....Where's Father'...Alfred'..You have his crown'

Alfred.....Yes, ma'm. He put it on me and sent me back ,

Princess...He did'..Why?...

Alfred....(sadly)...He said he was tired of being king. ^{that} he'd rather lead a devil's life any day.

Princess...Father said ~~that~~ that?...but where is he??...

Alfred....He's still down below.

Princess....Oh, the brave dear'...do you know what he's doing ,

Alfred?....he's trying to reform the Prince of Demons,
that's what'

Alfred....(sadly)...Yes ma'm--miss. The last time I saw him he had

Madame du Barry on his lap and he was telling the time he
the Prince about the time he slept with
Princess.....(hastily)...Alfred' ~~That's enough.~~ (pauses)
it' ~~My~~ father'...I can't believe

Alfred...(very sadly)..Yes ma'm----and I looked back at him and
he was already sprouting two beautiful horns.
(Princess gives a loud shriek and faints. Alfred catches her ,
lowers her gently to the ground, straightens up, and ,removing his
crown,gently examines his head.He sighs....
...No horns....

Curtain

Oct. 3,

Prof. Gard.

You'll have to excuse my
typing. It's not of the highest
order.

Alberta Robb